

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 10, line 29 through page 11, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

The superstructure 58 also includes a type pointer field 62 for each of the entries 60A-60E. The type pointer field 62 is utilized to determine where the identifier displayed in each of the menu items ~~52A-52E~~ 32A-32E is obtained from. In particular, an entry may be provided in the type pointer field 62 for each entry 60A-60E that points to a field in a device type data structure to display a generic moniker in one of the menu items ~~52A-52E~~ 32A-32E.

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, lines 3-12 with the following amended paragraph:

As shown in ~~FIGURE 4~~ FIGURE 3, an IPL data structure 54 is also utilized. The IPL data structure 54 includes entries 56A-56E corresponding to each of the mass storage devices contained within the computer 2 from which an initial program load may be made. The order of the entries in the IPL data structure 54 determines the boot priority of the computer 2. The order of the entries in the data structure 54 are set by a user by rearranging the order of the entries ~~52A-52E~~ 32A-32E utilizing the IPL menu 30, described above with respect to FIGURE 2. Each of the entries 56A-56E in the IPL data structure 54 comprises a pointer back to an entry in the superstructure 58. By referencing the pointer into the superstructure 58, information regarding each of the devices identified in the IPL data structure 54 may be obtained.

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, lines 13-30 with the following amended paragraph:

Referring now to FIGURE 4A, additional details regarding the operation of the present invention for maintaining the boot priority order of a computer 2 will be described. As shown in FIGURE 4A, a number of boot priority tokens 80 are stored in the CMOS 15 that identify the boot priority of the mass storage devices within the computer 2. Each of the tokens 82A-82D corresponds to a memory location in the CMOS 15. The sequence of memory locations

in the CMOS 15 is utilized to determine the boot order of the mass storage devices within then computer system 2. Moreover, the value of the tokens 82A-82E comprise pointers into the superstructure 58 identifying the particular mass storage device that should be booted in the order specified by the boot priority tokens 80. For instance, in the example shown in FIGURE 4A, the value of ~~token 82~~ token 82A points to the entry 60C in the superstructure 58. Accordingly, the “Brand A Model 1” mass storage device is first in the boot priority order. Similarly, the value of the token 82B points to the entry 60A in the superstructure 58. Accordingly, the mass storage device named “Brand B Model 2” is booted second in the boot priority order. Likewise, the values of the tokens 82C and 82D point to the entries 60B and 60D, respectively in the superstructure 58. Accordingly, the mass storage device named “Brand C Model 3” is booted third, and the mass storage device named “Brand D Model 4” is booted fourth.

Please replace the paragraph at page 13, lines 8-23 with the following amended paragraph:

FIGURE 4B shows the boot priority tokens 80 and superstructure 58 after removal of the “Brand C Model 3” mass storage device from a computer system configured in the same manner as described above with respect to FIGURE 4A. Removal of the “Brand C Model 3” mass storage device results in the superstructure 58 as shown in FIGURE 4B. However, because the boot priority tokens 80 correspond to the prior configuration, the boot order after removal of the mass storage device is drastically different than it was prior to removal. In particular, the value of the token 82A still points to the ~~entry 63~~ entry 60C in the superstructure. However, this entry now corresponds to the mass storage device named “Brand D Model 4.” Likewise, the token 82B continues to point to the entry 60A in the superstructure 58. However, this entry now corresponds to the mass storage device named “Brand B Model 2.” Accordingly, the boot order after removing the “Brand C Model 3” mass storage device utilizing prior art methods is drastically different from the boot order of the computer 2 prior to removal of the device. The embodiments of the invention address this problem and provide a boot order after adding or removing drives from the computer 2 that is very similar to the boot priority order before the configuration change.